

CLAREMONT · LARROCA · GURU-eFX



ARVEL 1

THE GHOST THAT JUST WON'T DIE!

Welcome to the next arc of

**X-TREME
X-MEN**
By Chris Claremont
& Salvador Larroca

This young woman's name is Kitty (short for "Katherine") Pryde.

She's a mutant and a super hero.

She's also a grad student at the University of Chicago.

But--because her scholarship doesn't cover rent and living expenses--she works at her landlord's bar, the Belles of Hell. It's a job she's come to love, whose patrons have become friends.

None--yet all--of that matters right now as she walks through Belles' doorway...

==GASP!==





Her codename's
Shadowcat--

With her skills--and phasing
powers--you'd think this
fight would be *easy*.



Turns out,
it is.

Just not
for her.

That's--
impossible!

I was
intangible--

--but
that kick hit
me!

It--
hurt!





<Foolish girl-->

<--I have been
hiding in your soul since
we last fought.~*>

<I know
your abilities and
your skills.~>

<I know
everything
about
you.~>

<And
you never once
suspected.~>

**In the Kitty Pryde &
Wolverine (1985) limited
series! --Memory Mark*



<I also
know how stubborn
you are.~>

<By all
means, try
again.~>

Kick
staggered him--
good--

--now to
use Logan's
claws to cut
through his
armor...

...so I can
grab his heart and
squeeze...

...until he
passes--



OW!

The claws--
they're
adamantium--
unbreakable--
just holding
them cut
my hands.

But
against Ogun's
armor, they
shattered!

KCSHH







<Wanna bet??>



<You're not the only one here who can adapt to new situations, bub.>



<My whole life as a hero, from the moment we first met, Logan didn't just teach me how to fight.>





Kitty?

Pryde!

Shadowcat!

X-TREME X-MEN

Originally, these seven mutant super heroes were known as the **X-Treme X-Men**. Now -- in hopes of building a better world for all its children -- they've become global Marshals, responsible for policing the boundaries between humanity and their **mutant** kinsfolk.



**'RO --
STORM --**
their leader



**REMY
LeBEAU --
GAMBIT**



His sweetie,
ROGUE



BISHOP



SAGE



**KATHERINE
"KITTY" PRYDE --
SHADOWCAT**



**RACHEL
SUMMERS --**
Kitty's best
(human) friend



LOCKHEED --
her very
best (dragon)
friend



**LOGAN --
WOLVERINE**



OGUN --
the villain, their
adversary

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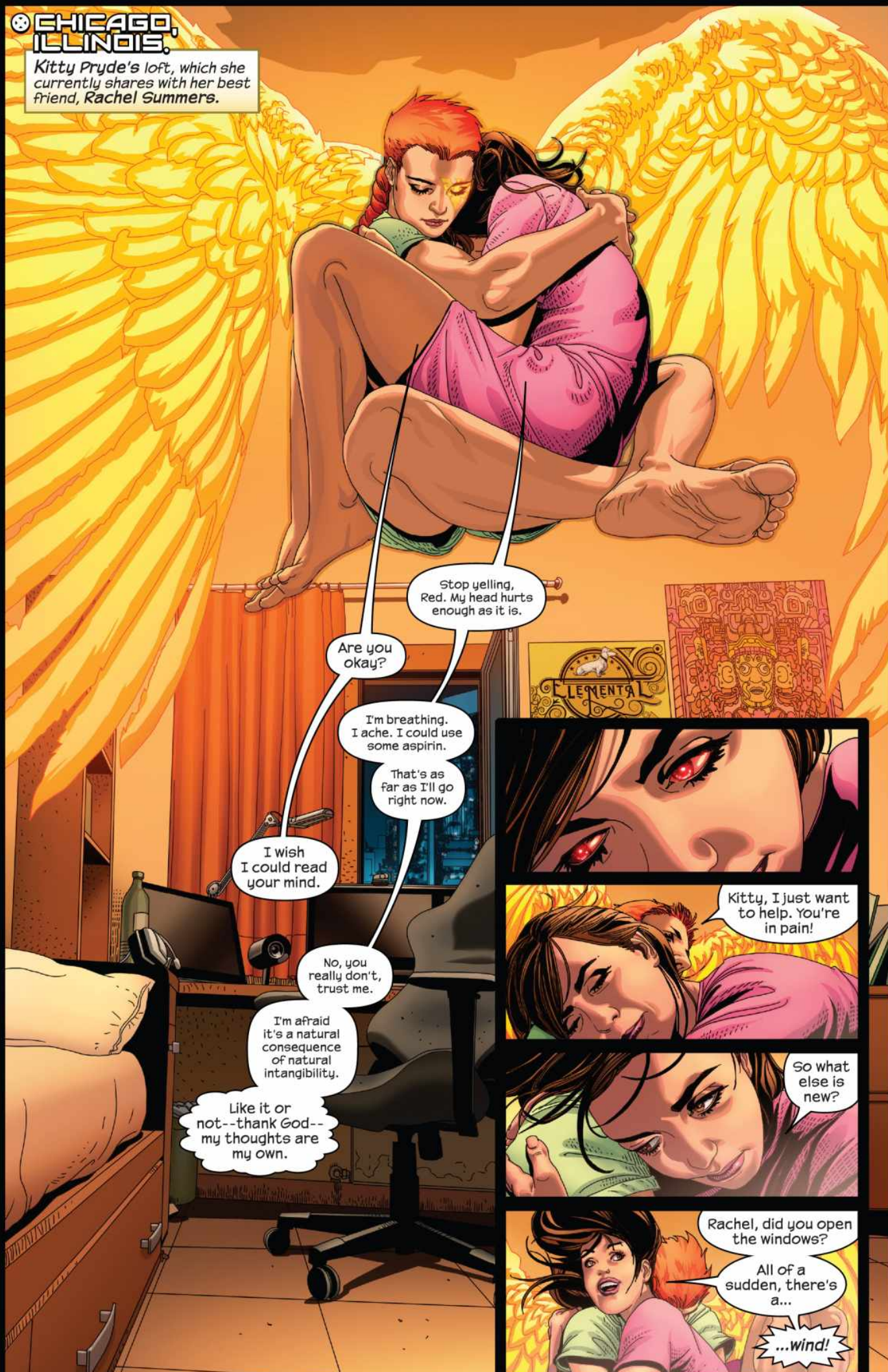
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X-MEN CREATED BY

CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS.

Kitty Pryde's loft, which she currently shares with her best friend, Rachel Summers.



Stop yelling, Red. My head hurts enough as it is.

Are you okay?

I'm breathing. I ache. I could use some aspirin.

That's as far as I'll go right now.

I wish I could read your mind.

No, you really don't, trust me.

I'm afraid it's a natural consequence of natural intangibility.

Like it or not--thank God--my thoughts are my own.



Kitty, I just want to help. You're in pain!



So what else is new?



Rachel, did you open the windows?

All of a sudden, there's a...

...Wind!

STORM!

Talk about making an entrance!

Are you all right, 'Cat?

Everybody's favorite question.

Lemme get back t' you on that, 'kay?

Ororo, you've--

--changed.

As have we all.

I thought it time to try something--different. For the fun of it.

You do fun?

Every life needs *new* experiences.

Tell us yours.







I'm serious, Kitty--come with me.

I'll take you wherever you want to go across known space.

Let your pals deal with the monster--you deserve some fun!

Listen to her, 'Cat.

This once, I agree with Lila.

"Ogun compressed a *lifetime's* training into a matter of days...



"...transforming a kid from the suburbs of Chicago...



"...into the *deadliest* of assassins.



"And then he sent her after me.



"She nearly got me too.

"But catching her meant *nothing*.

"Deep down, where it mattered, she was still Ogun's protégée--his *slave*.



"I was helpin' her all I could.

"In the end, though, the girl had to find her own way free of Ogun's cage."



A trip across the stars, away from all this--

--that sounds--
wonderful.

So why do I hear a "but"? Ignore it, girl. For once, think of *yourself.*

I am, Lila. That's the problem.

Three times now, Ogun's tried to steal my soul.

No way do I let him do that again--

--to me or anyone else.

Your call, girl--but this offer's open-ended.

Meantime, let's get you something special to wear.



"Kitty fought him with everything she had. She was *good.*"

"Ogun was *better.*"

"He tried to enslave her again. Surprise--he couldn't. Not anymore."



"So he decided to kill her."

"That's when I stepped in."

I wouldn't do that, bub...

...if I were you.



"We fought. I won."

"I gave Kitty a chance to kill him."

"But she didn't. She--*wouldn't.*"

"She was *herself* again, well and truly *free.*"

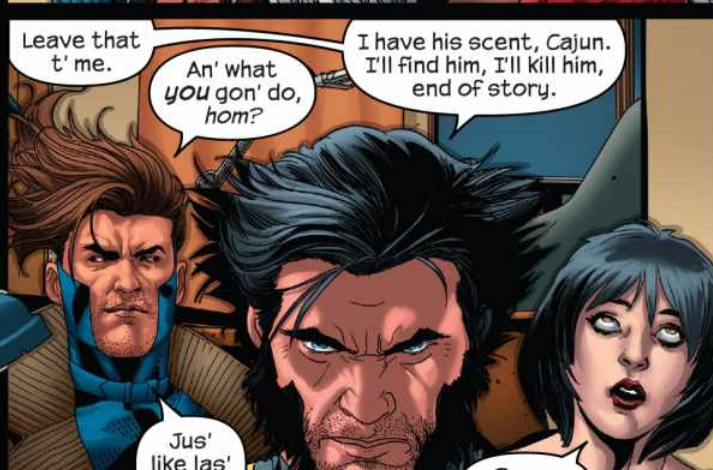


"Ogun couldn't accept that."

"Not losing, and especially not to a *girl.*"

"He made one last try to kill us both."

"Me, I did what I do best."





Don't push me, boy. Not here, not now, not ever.

Enough, the *both* of you.

We may have a bigger problem, people.

I'm getting a lot of concern from Belles--the cop bar where we work--about the anti-mutant group *Purity*.

They're staging a major protest.



Nothin' t' do with us, girl.

Chicago's on edge, Logan. *Purity*'s one step removed from being a *hate* group. They're staging a mass rally today.

They have mutants *scared*.

Play your *boy* games when the mission is done.

Until then, our focus must be on *Ogun*.



You want we should back down?

Let *Ogun* go?

This talkin's takin' too long already.

Flash your claws in the wrong place, old man, you could start a *riot*.

That what you want?



Enough-- from the *both* of you.

Logan, we are sanctioned *Global Marshals* now.* We are the *law*. As much as we can, we play by the *rules*.

Is that understood?

Your call, 'Ro.

Our primary focus is on *Ogun*.

We find him, we deal with him.

If he acquires a new host, we set that person *free*.

Should Purity prove itself an active threat to public safety...

...we will deal with them.

Rachel and Logan are our *hunters*.

Find his trail, then his hiding place.

Lead us to him.

Keep any innocents safe from harm.

That's a plan. Works every time.

Doesn't mean we don't keep trying.

Feel kind'a weird, lover, since ah'm basically a "flatscan" myself.

Maybe y'all should use me as bait?

Stop that talk right now, Rogue, ah mean it!

So tell me, then, Cajun, how you figure we catch a ghost?

Dunno--yet.

Maybe, just this *once*, we let li'l Logan do all the hard work?

Don't like bein' left behind.

We each have our roles, Lucas.

You cover my back.

Allowing me, through my scanning array, to watch out for our friends.

What about me?

You do not leave my side.

Suppose I phase?

I trust you not to.

Doesn't feel like it, 'RO.

You trust me to keep you aloft in my windstream. I ask you to trust me in this Ogun matter as well.

Where Ogun's concerned, I don't trust anyone.



Sadly, searching proves to be a whole lot easier than finding...

Ogun's been inside my head almost half my life, 'Ro.

Sure, he's out.

But who knows what surprises he's left behind?

Whatever, Kitty, we will find them-- face them--

--and beat him--

--together!



<Curse that wretched girl!>

<Yet again, she finds a way to escape my vengeance.>

<Truly, I was right to choose her as my protégée.>



<I never thought she would become my equal.>

<Musashi must be laughing, to see how my arrogance has tripped me up-- yet again.>



<But know this, mutant--our struggle is far from over.>

<For this time, you underestimate me.>

<So long as I remain a specter, dancing between your world and the astral plane...>

<...you will never find me.>

<I will be patient.>

<I will find the ideal host-->

<--I will smash your friends to dust-->

<--and in the end, see you not simply beaten-->

<--but broken!>

NEXT:



